

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOMBAY 00180 231044Z

21

ACTION SMI-01

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FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5052

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

UNCLAS BOMBAY 0180

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OSCI, IN

SUBJ: SMITHSONIAN/SFCP - SECRETARY RIPLEY'S FIELD TRIP

REF: STATE 15501

1. I HAVE TALKED TO BOTH DR. SALIM ALI AND JAMSHED BHABHA THIS MORNING ON MATTERS RAISED REFTEL.

2. SALIM ALI STATES EXPEDITION WHICH TAKES PLACE IN ORISSA WILL TERMINATE ABOUT FEBRUARY 28 IN SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF ORISSA AT TRIJUNCTION OF STATES OF ORISSA, MADHYA PRADESH AND ANDRA PRADESH. AS REGARDS TRAVEL FROM TERMINATION POINT TO BOMBAY, JAMSHED HAS EXPRESSED DESIRE THAT THIS BE WORKED OUT WITH PILOT OF AIRCRAFT FOLLOWING SECRETARY'S AND SALIM ALI'S ARRIVAL JAMSHEDPUR. HE ASKS THAT THE SECRETARY BE ASSURED THAT HE IS "NOT TO WORRY" AND THAT THESE DETAILS WILL BE WORKED OUT TO HIS SATISFACTION AFTER ARRIVAL INDIA. SALIM ALI ADDS THAT TERMINATION EXPEDITION WILL BE PLANNED SO AS TO PERMIT SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL BOMBAY MARCH 1 OR 2.

3. AS REGARDS ACCOMMODATIONS, JAMSHED STATES THAT SUITES HAVE BEEN RESERVED FOR SECRETARY AND MRS. RIPLEY IN BOMBAY AND DELHI AND ADDS THEY ARE OUR "HONORED GUESTS".

4. JAMSHED ASKS THAT SECRETARY BE INFORMED OF FOLLOWING CHANGE IN BOMBAY LECTURE DATES:

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TATAS NOW WISH HOLD FIRST LECTURE MONDAY EVE MARCH 3 WHICH IS TATAS FOUNDERS DAY, AND SECOND AS EARLIER SCHEDULED ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5. BOTH WILL BE IN HOMI BHABHA AUDITORIUM. SALIM ALI WILL NOW SCHEDULE BNHS AND OXFORD PRESS FUNCTION FOR TUES EVE MARCH 4. APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION FOREGOING CHANGE AGREEABLE SECRETARY. DELHI MARCH 6 DATE REMAINS AS SCHEDULED.

5. DOCUMENTARY FILM "BAOBAB: PORTRAIT OF A TREE" HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY CONGEN, SALIM ALI HAS BEEN INFORMED, AND IT IS BEING SENT OVER TO J.C. DANIELS TO BE HELD UNTIL SECRETARY ARRIVES BOMBAY (REF STATE 014986). THIS CONNECTION, FIRST SHOWING OF FILM ON SALIM ALI "IN COMPANY OF BIRDS" WAS HELD IN BOMBAY ON JAN 21 AND IS EXCELLENT FILM AND SECRETARY WILL WISH SEE.

6. REFERENCE PARA 2 STATE 015499, WE UNABLE ADD MORE ON ITINERARY EXCEPT TO SAY THAT EXPEDITION WILL BE TRAVELLING THROUGH STATE OF ORISSA BETWEEN APPROXIMATE DATES FEB ONE AND MARCH ONE, TERMINATING IN SOUTHERNMOST TIP ORISSA. ORISSA GOVT PROVIDING SUPPORT IN FORM TWO JEEPS AS EARLIER INDICATED. WHEN I ASKED SALIM ALI FOR MORE PRECISE GEOGRAPHICAL POINTS, HE INDICATED THE DIFFICULTY IN DOING THIS SINCE "THE BIRDS ARE NOT EXPECTING US."
BANE

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